

HCS HB 54 -- VACANCIES IN ELECTED COUNTY OFFICES

SPONSOR: Muntzel

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elections and Elected Officials by a vote of 10 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill requires the county commission in all noncharter counties to immediately fill, by appointment, a vacancy in a county elected office to serve until the Governor makes an appointment or until the vacancy is filled by operation of another provision of law. In counties with only two county commissioners, when there is the absence of an agreement, the presiding commissioner will make the appointment. The offices of prosecuting attorney and circuit attorney are excluded from this provision.

This bill is similar to SCS HCS HB 1675 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will allow efficient operation of county services such as collector offices and treasurer functions. Delays in appointments can result in unpaid salaries and problems providing services to county residents.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Muntzel; County Commissioners Association; Missouri County Collectors Association; and Missouri Association of Counties.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

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